anchored position in the Ganga river between Haldia and Allahabad and in the Brahmaputra river between Dhubri to Sadia (upper Assam) *via* Pandu;

(b) whether night navigation facilities are available on the above routes: and

(c) if so, the frequency of the facilities and the places covered by such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRIDILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) In National Waterway No. 1, eighty eight (88) buoys had been installed between Kolkata and Nabadeep, in the year 2000. Later, 108 buoys were installed between Tribeni and Jangipur in the year 2002 As regards National Waterway No. 2, sixty (60) buoys were installed between Bangladesh Border and Rampura in the year 2002.

(b) and (c) Night navigation facilities are presently available between Tribeni and Mayapur in National Waterway No. 1 and between Bangladesh border and Drubri in National Waterway No. 2. These facilities are spaced out depending on channel conditions and navigational requirement.

Financial Position of SCI

3978. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the EU's statement on Shipping Corporation of India's soft underbelly;

(b) the details and the measures proposed for salvaging the company from adverse impact of the EU decision;

(c) the amount invested in, the paid up capital and the net worth of the SCI, its annual turnover and profits during the last three years; and

(d) whether certain private companies have evinced interest in buying out SCI and if so, whether Government propose to relax the norms to facilitate such buyout?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of an article in the Hindustan Times entitled "EU exposes SCI's soft underbelly." The ban on single hull oil tankers of over 23

years of age carrying crude oil or fuel oil is expected to come into force on 1st July, 2003. SCI has 8 single hull crude oil tankers which are over 23 years of age, out of which 2 are on storage duty on ONGC and British Gas. The other 6 tankers are operating between Persian Gulf-India and on the Indian Coast. Hence, there is no impact of this decision on SCI's tanker fleet.

(c) Financial position of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. for past three years is as under:—

	2001-2002 (Rs. in lakhs)	2000-2001 (Rs. in lakhs)	1999-2000 (Rs. in lakhs)
Paid up Capital	28,230	28,230	28,230
Net Worth	2,09,559	2,18,748	1,88,550
Annual Turnover (i.e. Operating Earnings)	2,78,467	2,99,476	2,54,276
Net Proft After Tax	24,156	38,256	16,161

(d) Government has decided to permit foreign participation without any ceiling in the strategic sale of SCI. This is in line with the FDI policy in the shipping sector. Consequently fresh Expressions of interest for the strategic sale of 51 per cent equity in Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. will be invited.

Sexual harassment of women at their work places

3979. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report of Police uncooperativeness in sexual harassment cases at work place;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to introduce new laws to ensure prompt action against the guilty and ensure justice to the women facing sexual harassment at their work place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL